SB761
.U7P3
#89-5

United States Department Of Agriculture | Forest Service | Shasta-Trinity National Forests

Reply To: 3420 Date: April 17, 1989

Subject: Post-suppression Evaluation of POC Root Disease Eradication Efforts, Gasquet Ranger District (Report No. N89-5)

To: Forest Supervisor, Six Rivers National Forest

On April 12, 1989, John Kliejunas, FPM-RO, and I visited the Sanger Port-Orford-cedar administrative study on the Gasquet Ranger District. In October 1988, the District removed Port-Orford-cedar along part of a drainage to the Middle Fork Smith River in an attempt to eradicate a small, localized infection of Port-Orford-cedar root disease.

Originally, two infected areas were identified. The major area was along the perennial drainage. A second area was about 200 feet down the road on the outsloping side. During our examination, we found 3 POC seedlings that appeared to be infected at the top of the fill bank at this second area. We grubbed out these seedlings. We did not see any other infected trees in either eradication area.

The removal of the POC appeared to cause minimal soil disturbance. The District noted that slashing of susceptible non-merchantable trees should have been completed prior to harvesting the merchantable individuals. This would have increased the ability to locate trees, especially small seedlings, for removal. We noted the presence of some POC seedlings still within the treatment area. Because of their small root systems, we don't know what hazard these seedlings provide for new infections and an increase in production of spores. If possible, it is advisable to remove any POC seedlings close to the drainage and other low-lying, wet areas.

At the lower end of the main treatment area along the drainage, a group of sapling and seedling POC were observed that should be removed because of the hazard they provide. These trees are on a bench along the drainage and have roots that have a high probability of becoming infected. Water is flowing out of the bank above the bench and slowly flowing across the bench where the trees are growing. This appears to be a likely area for new infections to begin. It is recommended that this group of about 6 trees be removed as soon as possible so that their root systems don't become infected and serve as a source of spores for further downstream spread. This group of trees is just upstream from the blue flagging marking the lower limit of the treatment area.

If the District plans any additional slashing treatments, it would be advisable to begin work at the lower end of the treatment area and progress upslope to the road. This would minimize the movement of infested soil downslope on boots and equipment.

As planned, the District will monitor this area for the presence of POC root disease later this spring. I am available if they desire assistance. If the

LIBRARY COPY
ROCKY MT. FOREST & RANGE
EXPERIMENT STATION

disease is found beyond the treatment area, we need to evaluate whether further actions are appropriate. I believe the actions of the District are a good example of efforts being made to minimize further spread and impact of this disease and hope that we can cooperate in future activities.

/s/ Gregg A. DeNitto

GREGG A. DeNITTO
Forest Pathologist
Northern California FPM Service Area